

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05
CIAE-00 IO-06 ACDA-10 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 L-01
TRSE-00 OES-02 /058 W
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P 111542Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5337
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 07727

LIMDIS

FOR EUR/RPM

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MILI
SUBJECT: PROPOSED COMMENTS BY SYG LUNS ON THE NEUTRON
BOMB

1. THERE FOLLOWS A DRAFT TEXT PROVIDED TO US BY THE
INTERNATIONAL STAFF INFORMALLY FOR REVIEW, OF REMARKS
ON THE NEUTRON BOMB THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL MAY
INCLUDE IN AN ADDRESS HE PLANS TO MAKE TO THE ANNUAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION IN REYKJAVIK
ON AUGUST 26. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SYG PERSONALLY
WISHES TO ADDRESS THIS SUBJECT, AND THAT THE DRAFT
BELOW HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF
FOR HIS CONSIDERATION. THE DRAFT CONSISTS OF ALTERNATIVE
EITHER/OR TEXTS THAT WOULD BE USED DEPENDING ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCED DECISION REGARDING THE NEUTRON
BOMB. THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF REQUESTS OUR COMMENTS
IF POSSIBLE BY AUGUST 18, SINCE THE TEXT WILL HAVE TO
BE REVIEWED BY THE SYG AND SUBSEQUENTLY TRANSLATED AND
REPRODUCED.

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2. WE NOTED TO THE IS THAT WE DO NOT YET KNOW PRECISELY
WHEN THE PRESIDENT WOULD ANNOUNCE HIS DECISION EXPECTED
IN MID-AUGUST.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE, IF POSSIBLE BY AUGUST 17.
BEGIN TEXT:

- EITHER

- (FOR USE IF NO ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE BY
- PRESIDENT CARTER, OR IF ONLY AN INDECISIVE
- ANNOUNCEMENT.)

I SHOULD LIKE AT THIS POINT TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT AN ISSUE WHICH HAS AROUSED A GOOD DEAL OF PUBLIC ATTENTION: THE NEUTRON WEAPON, - OR, MORE ACCURATELY, THE ENHANCED-RADIATION WARHEAD. I SAID EARLIER THAT A THEME RUNNING THROUGH MY SPEECH WOULD BE THE NEED FOR AWARENESS BY THE PUBLIC OF THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION. THIS APPLIES TO THE CURRENT DEBATE ON ENHANCED RADIATION TECHNOLOGY. THE ARRIVAL OF ANY NEW TYPE OF WEAPON, ESPECIALLY A NUCLEAR WEAPON, IS A LEGITIMATE SUBJECT FOR THOROUGH PUBLIC DISCUSSION. BUT I REGRET THE DEGREE TO WHICH SOME WESTERN COMMENTATORS HAVE CONDUCTED THE DEBATE ON THE BASIS OF HALF TRUTHS, WHICH IS TO SAY HALF UN-TRUTHS. LET ME TRY TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

OF COURSE THE AIM OF ALL WEAPONS IS TO PUT ARMED FORCES OUT OF ACTION. NATO'S DEFENCE HAS LONG RELIED ON NUCLEAR ARMS AS WELL AS CONVENTIONAL FORCES, AND WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO DO SO. THE MAIN CHARACTERISTIC OF THE ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD IS THAT IT CAUSES LESS COLLATERAL DAMAGE THAN OTHER TYPES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. LET US BE CLEAR WHAT THIS MEANS. THE

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ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD NOT ONLY CAUSES LESS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY - A POINT GENERALLY EMPHASISED BY WESTERN COMMENTATORS, IT ALSO CAUSES FEWER CASUALTIES AMONG POPULATIONS OUTSIDE THE MILITARY TARGET. IN OTHER WORDS THE RISK TO CIVILIANS WOULD BE GREATLY REDUCED - A POINT, SURELY, OF GREAT IMPORTANCE BUT WHICH IS RECEIVING LITTLE RECOGNITION FROM CERTAIN WESTERN COMMENTATORS. THE LEAST THAT CAN BE SAID IS THAT WEAPONS WITH DIMINISHED COLLATERAL EFFECT CAN CERTAINLY NOT BE WORSE THAN OTHERS.

THE SECOND ASPECT I WISH TO BRING OUT IS THAT THERE ARE SPECIAL PROCEDURES WITHIN THE ALLIANCE AND WITHIN INDIVIDUAL ALLIED COUNTRIES TO CONTROL THE USE OF ALL TYPES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. A WEAPON EQUIPPED WITH AN ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD WOULD BE SUBJECT TO PRECISELY THE SAME PROCEDURES AS ANY OTHER TYPE OF NUCLEAR WEAPON. THESE PROCEDURES ENABLE THE AWESOME IMPLICATIONS OF THE USE OF ANY NUCLEAR WEAPON TO BE FULLY WEIGHED BY ALLIED LEADERS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. THE CONTROL OF ESCALATION IS, AS YOU KNOW, ENVISAGED AS PART OF THE NATO STRATEGY OF FLEXIBLE

RESPONSE AND IS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF OUR DETERRENCE.
WHAT I WOULD EMPHASISE IS THAT THE PROCESS OF ESCALATION
WOULD BE AS CAREFULLY CONTROLLED WITH THE EXISTENCE
OF THE ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD AS WITHOUT IT.

LASTLY A COMMENT ON WHERE WE STAND TODAY AS REGARDS
THE NEUTRON DEVICE. THE DECISION TO PRODUCE AND
DEPLOY THE NEUTRON WEAPON HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN BY
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. UNTIL THAT DECISION
HAS BEEN TAKEN, THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT SHOULD

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SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 NATO 07727
LIMDIS

BE DEPLOYED IN NATO REMAINS HYPOTHETICAL.

- OR
- (TO BE USED IF PRESIDENT CARTER ANNOUNCES A
DECISION TO PRODUCE THE NEUTRON WEAPON.)

I SHOULD LIKE AT THIS STAGE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT
AN ISSUE WHICH HAS AROUSED A GOOD DEAL OF PUBLIC
ATTENTION: THE NEUTRON WEAPON, OR, MORE ACCURATELY,
THE ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD. AS YOU WILL HAVE
HEARD, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL PRODUCE THIS WEAPON.
THE QUESTION OF DEPLOYMENT WILL OF COURSE BE A MATTER
FOR CONSULTATION WITH ALLIES.

I SAID EARLIER THAT A THEME RUNNING THROUGH MY SPEECH
WOULD BE THE NEED FOR AWARENESS BY THE PUBLIC OF THE
FACTS OF THE SITUATION. THIS APPLIES TO THE CURRENT
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THE BASIS OF HALF TRUTHS, WHICH IS TO SAY, HALF UN-TRUTHS. LET ME TRY TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

NATO'S DETERRENCE HAS LONG RELIED ON NUCLEAR AS WELL AS CONVENTIONAL FORCES AND WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO DO SO. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THIS DETERRENCE IS KEPT CREDIBLE IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS BOTH IN THE NUMERICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL STRENGTH OF THE POTENTIAL AGGRESSOR. AFTER THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, IT IS THE OPINION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT THE ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD WILL CONTRIBUTE TO MAINTAINING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE DETERRENCE. THIS MEANS THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD WILL MAKE AGGRESSION LESS LIKELY, AND WILL FURTHER LESSEN THE CHANCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF ANY SORT BEING USED.

OF COURSE THE AIM OF ALL WEAPONS IS TO PUT ARMED FORCES OUT OF ACTION. THE MAIN CHARACTERISTIC OF THE ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD IS THAT IT CAUSES LESS COLLATERAL DAMAGE THAN OTHER TYPES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. LET US BE CLEAR WHAT THIS MEANS. THE ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD NOT ONLY CAUSES LESS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY - A POINT GENERALLY EMPHASISED BY WESTERN COMMENTATORS. IT ALSO WOULD MINIMIZE CASUALTIES AMONG POPULATIONS OUTSIDE THE MILITARY TARGET. IN OTHER WORDS THE RISK TO CIVILIANS WOULD BE GREATLY REDUCED - A POINT, SURELY, OF GREAT IMPORTANCE BUT WHICH IS RECEIVING LITTLE RECOGNITION FROM CERTAIN WESTERN COMMENTATORS. THE LEAST THAT CAN BE SAID IS THAT WEAPONS WITH DIMINISHED COLLATERAL EFFECT CAN CERTAINLY NOT BE WORSE THAN OTHERS.

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